United Nations A/C.1/66/L.21/Rev.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
25 October 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
First Committee
Agenda item 106
Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations

Austria, Mexico and Norway: revised draft resolution

Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons,

Recalling the declaration of the first special session on disarmament, that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations, and that all States have the right to participate in disarmament negotiations,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] which states, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

Reaffirming multilateralism as a core and fundamental principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope,

Recognizing the importance of disarmament in strengthening global security and promoting international stability,

Recognizing also that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Recalling the contribution made in the past by the Conference on Disarmament in successfully negotiating arms control and disarmament instruments,

[1] See resolution S-10/2, sect. II.
[2] See resolution 55/2.

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Mindful of the continuing requirement for a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as expressed during the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Concerned at the continuing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament,

Taking into account all efforts to foster agreement on a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament, and recalling in this context the most recent agreement reached in the Conference,

Recognizing the increased political attention to disarmament and non-proliferation issues and that the international political climate is more conducive to the promotion of multilateral disarmament and moving towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons,

Recalling the strong support of the Secretary-General with regard to revitalizing the multilateral disarmament machinery, as well as the continuous efforts by Member States to secure progress in multilateral disarmament, and the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recalling also the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, held in New York on 24 September 2010 and its resolution 65/93 of 8 December 2010 on follow-up to the high-level meeting,

Emphasizing the importance of substantive progress on priority disarmament and non-proliferation issues,

Recognizing the important contribution that civil society can make to multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes,

Mindful of Article 11 of the Charter of the United Nations, concerning the functions and powers of the General Assembly to consider and make recommendations, inter alia with regard to disarmament,

1. *Urges* all member States of the Conference on Disarmament to do their utmost during the 2011/12 intersessional period to overcome outstanding differences regarding the adoption and implementation of a programme of work and calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to adopt and implement a programme of work during the 2012 session of the Conference, to enable the immediate commencement of negotiations;

2. *Resolves*, should a decision on a programme of work not have been reached and such programme of work not been implemented as stipulated in paragraph 1 above, to consider at its sixty-seventh session alternative ways of taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, including:

(a) Through the establishment of open-ended working groups on priority issues of nuclear disarmament, encompassing, inter alia, nuclear disarmament and the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and the negotiation of a non-discriminatory multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; as well as on the issue of prevention of an arms race in outer space;

(b) Whereby the work of such open-ended working groups would take place in Geneva and take into consideration all relevant views and proposals, past, present and future, with the perspective of developing recommendations and submitting a consolidated report on their work to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, which would assess their progress and decide on extending their mandates, not excluding the possibility of negotiations on legally binding instruments on any of the aforementioned issues, as deemed appropriate, taking into consideration progress on the adoption and implementation of a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session an item entitled "Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations".